Kulwant K. Sharma

MANAGEMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA:

ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR INCLUSIVE LEARNING
Abstract

Higher education (HE) and role of technology in its delivery have been discussed in various forums during the past ten years. Lack of integration of HE with technology has increasingly emerged as a major challenge to the policy makers and regulators of this vital social sector. This study analyzed the current use of technology as an intrinsic part of the management of HE in India and ascertained its usefulness in enhancing the reach of HE to inaccessible parts of North India. To maintain a sustainable economy; the country needs a gross enrolment ratio of 30% in HE by 2020. In the absence of regular campus based infrastructure, the expansion of HE is possible through an extensive use of technology reach in all HE delivery formats, for which India's archaic regulatory regime needs a fresh look. There have been some initiatives from the government, but these are yet to find wider acceptability amongst the academic fraternity. Implications of technology delivery on universal access of HE in all parts of North India and preparedness of the infrastructures was assessed from the existing institutions and universities. The use of technologies for delivery of academic content and management of HE is not practiced in most of the institutions in India. It is concluded that universities and academic institutions in North India need to develop a coherent and comprehensive policy, which aims at infusing excellence, bringing collaborative learning, adding practical inputs and lowering the cost of acquiring HE at all levels. The universities are the hub centers of all HE activities and therefore need to remodel with technology connectivity to colleges and institutions, in both regular and open education modes.